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13. A filter element comprising a plurality of filter medium layers joined together such that a fluid to be filtered flows successively through the layers in a flow direction commencing with an inflow layer and ending with a discharge layer, wherein successive layers in said flow direction exhibit an increasing degree of separation and a decreasing storage capacity for particles to be filtered out of said fluid, and wherein said inflow layer is comprised of synthetic fibers and said discharge layer is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper.

14. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein the inflow layer is a melt-blown nonwoven web with a weight per unit area of approximately 15 to 150 g/m², and the discharge layer is a predominantly cellulose-containing, optionally calandared or compressed, filter paper having a weight per unit area of about 50 to 200 g/m².

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16. A filter element according to claim 15, wherein an intermediate filter medium layer located between the inflow-side filter medium and the outflow-side filter medium comprises an optionally calandared melt-blown nonwoven web having a weight per unit area of 15 to 150 g/m².

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17. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein the filter media joined together to form the filter element are star-folded.

18. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein the layers of filter medium are welded together by ultrasound.

19. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein the layers of filter medium are joined together by surface pressure during a folding process.

20. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein the layers of filter medium are adhesively bonded together by gluing with powdered adhesive or with a hot melt impregnating agent.

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21. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein at least one of the cellulose containing filter layers includes up to 50% of synthetic fibers.

22. A filter element according to claim 21, wherein said synthetic fibers are polyester fibers or glass fibers.

23. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein the filter element is disposed in a lubricating oil circuit of an internal combustion engine.

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24. A filter element according to claim 13, wherein said filter element ~~is disposed in a fuel line of an internal combustion engine.~~

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25. A filter element comprising a plurality of filter medium layers joined together such that a fluid to be filtered flows successively through the layers in a flow direction commencing with an inflow layer and ending with a discharge layer, wherein successive layers in said flow direction exhibit an increasing degree of separation and a decreasing storage capacity for particles to be filtered out of said fluid, and wherein said inflow layer is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper with a weight per unit area of 50 to 200 g/m², and said discharge layer is comprised of a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper with a weight per unit area of 50 to 200 g/m².

26. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein the inflow layer is a predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper with a weight of 50 to 200 g/m² and having a one-sided impregnating coating on the outflow side of the filter medium, and wherein the discharge layer is a continuously impregnated, predominantly cellulose-containing filter paper with a weight of 50 to 200 g/m².

27. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein the filter media joined together to form the filter element are star-folded.

28. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein the layers of filter medium are welded together by ultrasound.

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29. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein the layers of filter medium are joined together by surface pressure during a folding process.

30. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein the layers of filter medium are adhesively bonded together by gluing with powdered adhesive or with a hot melt impregnating agent.

A 31. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein at least one of the cellulose-containing filter layers includes up to 50% of synthetic fibers.

32. A filter element according to claim 31, wherein said synthetic fibers are polyester fibers or glass fibers.

33. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein the filter element is disposed in a lubricating oil circuit of an internal combustion engine.

34. A filter element according to claim 25, wherein said filter element is disposed in a fuel line of an internal combustion engine.

In the abstract:

After the last page of the claims, please insert the Abstract of the Disclosure found on the accompanying sheet.